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USUN FOR WOLFF/GERMAIN/SCHEDLBAUER
NSC FOR SHAPIRO, MCDERMOTT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/23/2019

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SUBJECT: LEBANON DEMARCHE RESPONSE: LOAN AGREEMENT WITH
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BANK OF IRAN

REF: A. STATE 37028

[1](#)B. BEIRUT 442

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) On April 21, the Ambassador, accompanied by EconOff, delivered Ref A demarche to Finance Minister Mohammad Chatah.

The Ambassador used demarche talking points to urge the Minister to cancel the GOL,s loan with the Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI).

[1](#)2. (C) Chatah said he would take the U.S. message to PM Siniora and Central Bank Governor Salameh and highlight the risks of doing business with EDBI. Nonetheless, he noted that the projects financed by this loan are already underway.

Given the GOL,s financial situation, added Chatah, the sentiment in the Council of Ministers -- and in political circles generally speaking -- would not be in favor of turning down donor money.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Chatah, who is in Washington, D.C. April 23-27 for the World Bank/IMF Spring meetings, said he will be ready to discuss this issue in his bilateral meetings with State and Treasury Department officials.

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